



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Fisheries

Improving fishery management in support of better governance of Myanmar's inland and delta fisheries



Overview

Fisheries are vital to the Myanmar economy and people's livelihoods, but fishery management is poor. Important fisheries are at risk, increasing the vulnerability of people who rely on them.

Building on the work of the MYFish project, which identified fishery management as a critical research issue for fisheries development in Myanmar, MYFish2 will test different fishery management options in inland and delta fisheries (rivers, rice paddies, reservoirs, irrigation canals, wetlands and inland coastal areas).

MYFish2 will produce ecological and socioeconomic data on the impact of different management practices, identifying those that best contribute to fish production, protect natural resources, and provide the most equitable benefits to local people.

Fishery management information generated will inform decision-making that can strengthen fisheries and natural resource governance and policy making in priority fish-production areas of the Ayeyarwady Delta and Central Dry Zone.

Different fisheries management practices will be assessed on fish production, fisher incomes, biodiversity, food security, human nutrition and gender equity. The data will be used to promote good fisheries and natural resources governance with the aim of balancing ecological and human well-being.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. FIS/2015/046

Duration: January 2017 to December 2020 (4 years)

Target areas: Myanmar

Budget: A\$2,639,789

Project Leader

Dr Michael Akester, WorldFish

Key partners

Department of Fisheries, Myanmar

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Ann Fleming



Objective

The project's overall aim is to sustainably increase fish production and improve benefit sharing among fish-dependent communities.

The project's three main objectives are to:

- Characterise existing fishery management practices and assess their performance on fish production and benefit distribution in key fish-production areas.
- Field test and adapt improved fisheries management approaches for different access arrangements in key fish-production areas of Ayeyarwady Delta.
- Strengthen research and development capacities of government, partners and fisheries organisations for improving the management of fisheries and associated natural resources, and providing guidance for governance and policy development.

Expected scientific results

- Comprehensive assessment of Myanmar's fishery management systems with knowledge and research data used by the Myanmar Department of Fisheries sector partners and fishers that can be used to support the improvement of fisheries governance and policies.
- Development of a scientific method for characterising and describing site-specific ecological, social aspects of fisheries management arrangements.
- Analytical framework to assess the performance of different management strategies against fishery management goals.
- Knowledge gaps identified at specific fish production sites.
- Relationships between fisheries and other land/water use activities highlighted.
- Importance of social and ecological studies in the development of appropriate fishery management interventions highlighted.
- Generation of knowledge on fisheries ecology, production and the distribution of benefits from fisheries resources.

Expected outcomes

- Sustainable management of priority fish producing areas.
- Increased fish production and value of fisheries' products.
- Increased participation of local communities in the co-management of fisheries and natural resources and decision-making processes.
- Improved equity among local fisheries users.
- Sustainable improvements to incomes, nutrition, food security and gender equity for small scale fishing households, particularly for vulnerable groups.
- Capacity for improved management of breeding and migration areas of commercially important fish stocks.
- Changes in fisheries governance and policy arrangements supporting community co-management.



**Australian
Aid** 

